(vi) Such social audit measures may also be appropriately institutionalized at the Block and District level.

Coordination with Ministries and States

1252. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a meeting on Panchayati Raj was held in Raipur in the light of the Prime Minister's directive that all the Ministries should consult the Panchayati Raj Ministry while making any Central Plan or programme for rural development and social justice;

(b) if so, the outcome of the meeting; and

(c) the details of action plan prepared for coordination between the various Ministries and all the States?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The third Round Table of Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj was held at Raipur on 23-24 September, 2004 in which the subjects of Provisions of Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA), reservations for women; and reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were discussed. The Ministers of Panchayati Raj agreed to recommend to their respective Governments for joint acceptance by the Centre and the States, action points arrived at during the meeting. Although Centrally Sponsored Schemes were not part of the Raipur agenda, the fact is that the Prime Minister has approved a suggestion from the Ministry of Panchayati Raj that all Ministries who are operating Centrally Sponsored Schemes should review their schemes in the light of Article 243G read with XI Schedule with a view to incorporating into the Schemes the Constitutional provisions in this regard, in letter and spirit. It has also been decided that the Ministry of Panchayati Raj should be consulted and their views incorporated in the notes prepared for consideration of Cabinet/ Cabinet Committees in all cases relating to Centrally Sponsored Programmes/Schemes that have a bearing on decentralization. Ministries are expected to take necessary action in this regard.

Panchayat Elections in Jammu and Kashmir

1253. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether panchayat elections are planned to be held in Jammu and Kashmir early next year;

(b) if so, whether the preparatory arrangements have been made for holding elections; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act is not applicable to Jammu and Kashmir. Panchayati Raj in Jammu and Kashmir functions under the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir have informed the Ministry that elections were held in 2002 in the Jammu and Kashmir only in respect of the lowest tier of the Panchayati Raj Institutions. Elections in respect of left over panchayats and casual vacancies of Panches and Sarpanches were held in the year 2003 in the Ladakh area.The Government of Jammu and Kashmir have informed the Ministry that they are keen to hold elections for left over/ casual vacancies at the earliest, but no specific date has been intimated.

Panchayats and Parishads

1254. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that duly elected Village Panchayats and Zila Parishads exist in all the States and UTs;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State and Union Territory-wise and District-wise and the number of Panchayats and Parishads showing respective years of constitution of each and similar details in respect of other institutions of self-Government *viz.*, Nagar Palikas and Nagar Mahapalikas;

(c) the details of authorities responsible for incurring expenses relating to conduct of elections for Panchayats and Zila Parishads; and

(d) the details of expenses incurred on account of elections last held for Panchayats and Parishads?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) In conformity with Part IX of the Constitution, Village and District Panchayats, (and, where applicable, Intermediate Panchayats) have been